

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 5, 2007

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(h): Consideration of resolution amending resolution No. 07-32 and authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire APNs 2821-009-020 and 029 in Devils Canyon in the Santa Susana Mountains, Upper Los Angeles River Watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution rescinding resolution No. 07-32 and authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds in an amount not to exceed \$335,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire APNs 2821-009-020 and 029 in Devils Canyon in the Santa Susana Mountains, Upper Los Angeles River Watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of the Public Resources Code

Background: At its April 30, 2007 meeting, the Conservancy adopted resolution No. 07-32 that authorized a \$220,000 grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to acquire APN 2821-009-020 a 53-acre parcel in Devil Canyon. The award of Proposition 50 funds Los Angeles River watershed funds was in error. The proposed action would entirely rescind that resolution and action.

The MRCA has subsequently requested a new grant for \$335,000 that includes the acquisition of both APNs 2821-009-020 and 029. Parcel 2821-009-029 is a 26.67-acre property. The attached budget provides for the purchase price of the land, direct acquisition/closing costs, and modest staff time. Proposed action would award a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the MRCA.

The two subject parcels abut the eastern boundary of Rocky Peak Park. Both parcels contain significant sections of the Devil Creek riparian corridor and are part of the core Santa Susana Mountains habitat. Both parcels also support oak woodland, grassland, and mixed coastal sage scrub/chaparral habitat. The Devil Canyon area is perhaps the most ecological significant watershed on the south slope of the Santa Susana Mountains. The subject parcels would help fill in the area between Michael D. Antonovich Park at Joughin Ranch and Rocky Peak Park. Together these parks form the largest block of protected land in the range. The attached figure shows how the subject properties fit into the Conservancy's Acquisition Workprogram.